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(PATENT)

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In re Patent Application of:
J. Michael Ramstack, Ph.D., et al.

Application No.: 10/022,859

Group Art Unit: 1615

Filed: December 20, 2001

Examiner: Amy E. Pulliam

For: PREPARATION OF MICROPARTICLES
HAVING IMPROVED FLOWABILITY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as shown below.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0740.

In the Claims

Please cancel pending claims 1-64 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Please substitute therefor the following new claims 65-115.

65. A method for processing microparticles to improve flowability, comprising:

(a) conditioning the microparticles to form conditioned microparticles, wherein the conditioning is carried out until a flowability index of the conditioned